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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7860  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000313  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/19/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [BA](#)  
SUBJECT: ACRIMONY IN PARLIAMENT FEEDS SECTARIAN ILL-WILL (C-NE8-00961)  
REF: A. 06 MANAMA 1728 B. MANAMA 76 C. MANAMA 236

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1.(C) Summary: After an improvement this Spring in intercommunal atmospherics, Bahrain's elected lower house of parliament closed down for the  
2.(C) Sectarian bad feeling seemed to be subsiding a bit throughout this Spring due to several developments. First, in March King Hamad met sec  
3.(C) Second, when a plainclothes policeman died April 9 during a clash between rock-throwing Shi'a youths and riot police (ref C), both the gc  
----- Struggle Over the Questioning of Ministers -----  
4.(C) Meanwhile, in the Council of Representatives (COR), Bahrain's elected lower house of parliament, there was deadlock for much of this Spri  
----- A Compromise -----  
5.(C) The stand-off was resolved in mid-April when Wifaq leader Ali Salman reached a quiet compromise with Sunni politicians. As Salman later e  
----- The Compromise Breaks Down -----  
6.(C) This tidy arrangement unraveled on a point of procedure. When parliament met May 13 for its last scheduled session before the summer rece  
7.(C) Wifaq MPs told emboffs afterward that they had thought MANAMA 00000313 002 OF 002 parliament's rules prevented a vote for censure unless  
8.(SBU) Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman and the Cabinet reacted publicly on May 18, labeling the censure vote an apparent violation of the ch  
----- What Next? -----  
9.(C) Bin Rajab will survive the vote of censure, but Shi'a see it as a slap in the face to Wifaq. Shi'a voices calling for Wifaq to pull out c  
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HENZEL